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LETTER DATED 22 NOVEMBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the positions of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the violations by Croatia of Security Council resolution 713 (1991) on the arms embargo against the former Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expresses its deep concern over the continuing gross violations of the arms embargo by some former Yugoslav republics (Slovenia and Croatia and by Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina) in contravention of Security Council resolution 713 (1991). This is particularly alarming since it threatens the already fragile peace and heightens tensions in the region, thus diminishing prospects for an overall peaceful solution.

In that connection, the Federal Government would like to draw your attention to the activities of Croatia aimed at the strengthening of its air force.

It is well known that the disintegration of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was brought about by forcible secession of Slovenia and Croatia, initiated by the attacks launched by their paramilitary forces against the Yugoslav People's Army, the only legitimate armed force of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Croatia took advantage of the fact that the Yugoslav People's Army was based on a multi-ethnic principle, i.e., that all nationalities of the former Yugoslavia, including the Croatian one, were equally represented in it. Even before the outbreak of hostilities, the nationalist Croatian forces had already begun illegal and clandestine arming and embarked upon recruiting the Croatians in the Yugoslav People's Army as well as employees of the military industry located in that former Yugoslav republic.

The outbreak of hostilities clearly demonstrated Croatia's readiness to use all means, including force, in order to enforce illegal secession from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Therefore, the federal authorities undertook the necessary measures, provided for in the Constitution, to protect the territorial integrity of the country. Those measures included the relocation of armaments and military equipment of the Yugoslav People's Army.

Only one MI-8 helicopter (ID No. 10989) and three MIG-21 aeroplanes (ID Nos. 75061131, 75074051 and 75093741) were left in Croatian territory of all the aircraft from the former Yugoslav People's Army. Former pilots of the Yugoslav air force, Croats by nationality, used them to defect to the Croatian side.

The competent authorities of the Army of Yugoslavia are in possession of relevant documentation, with a full list and serial numbers of all aircraft and spare parts that were removed from the territory of Croatia following its forcible secession.

The air force service and repair institute, "ZMAJ", located in Zagreb, was evacuated, pursuant to the agreement cosigned by the representatives of the European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM), who were responsible for its implementation.

In July 1991 there were 56 aircraft of different types in the "ZMAJ" Institute: 13 aircraft in working order were transferred in July 1991, while 43 non-operational aircraft were evacuated along with all spare parts, i.e. 1,329 components, in the first half of December 1991.

However, it was widely publicized that Croatia is violating the arms embargo by smuggling aircraft into its territory. The British magazine, Defence and Foreign Affairs - Strategic Policy, in its 31 December 1992 issue, stated that in 1992 Croatia bought 10 MIG-21 and 2 SAAB aircraft from Austria and 3 MIG-21 aeroplanes from Germany.

Reliable sources claim that Croatia is in possession of 16 MIG-21 on the territory of a neighbouring country.

Croatia is in possession of several combat M-24 helicopters. Those helicopters were not a part of the armament of the former Yugoslav People's Army. Croatian violation of the relevant Security Council resolution is ever more dangerous since the smuggled armaments, including combat aircraft are being used for aggression against civilian targets in the United Nations protected areas. That was also noted in the United Nations monitors' reports.

In its report of 15 September 1993, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) stated that Croatian aviation attacked civilian targets in Blatusa-Vrgin Most (United Nations protected area, Sector North), whereupon one of the MIG-21 aircraft was shot down.

In accordance with Security Council resolution 786 (1992), the teams of United Nations military observers and ECMM supervise around the clock the airfields in Croatia. Nevertheless, Croatia is continuing to build up its air force, unhindered and with impunity, and use it against civilian targets in the United Nations protected areas.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate that these activities not only represent a violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, but are contrary to the very substance of the Vance Plan and overall peace efforts.